THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. In order to contain the outflow of subsidy and fix the consumption norms at the realistic level, Government has revised the consumption norms of the urea units on interim basis w.e.f. 1.4.2000. These consumption norms are based on the actual levels achieved in 1999-2000, or the existing level, whichever is lower. The retention prices have also been revised correspondingly, ad interim. This revision has led to reduction in retention prices in respect of some units. Such revision is, however, only an interim arrangement and is subject to the decision of the Government on the policy parameters for VII and VIII pricing periods which will include consumption norms also, and will be effective from 1.7.1997.

(b) Although two urea companies namely Duncans Industries Ltd., Kanpur and Mangalore Chemicals and Industries Ltd., Mangalore, have served notices for closure of the units to their respective State Governments, the Union Government has not received any communication from the State Governments conveying their decision on the closure notices.

(c) As the consumption norms have been revised on the basis of actual levels achieved in 1999-2000, or existing level, whichever is lower, the Government does not intend to withdraw the communication dated 5.11.2001 notifying the revision in retention prices of urea units consequent interim revision of consumption norms w.e.f.1.4.2000.

New Drug Policy

192. SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI RUMANDLA RAMA CHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a new drug policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) by when it is likely to be announced;

(d) from which date it is being implemented;

(e) the steps taken in that regard;

(f) whether any safeguards have been provided therein to control the rising prices of medicines and pharmaceutical products, particularly life-saving drugs; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (g) Government have recently announced the "Pharmaceutical Policy-2002". The main objectives of this Policy are, *inter-alia*, ensuring abundant availability at reasonable prices within the country of good quality essential pharmaceuticals of mass consumption and strengthening the indigenous capability for cost effective quality production. The policy provides for identifying the drugs for price regulation out of the basket of the items appearing in the National Essential Drug List and those considered important from the point of view of their use in various Health Programmes, in emergency care etc,. There would be monitoring of price movement in other cases.

Exposure to hazardous chemicals around Union Carbide

193. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a scientific survey conducted by Green Peace has shown that the residents around Union Carbide of India Ltd. (UCIL) are still exposed to the hazardous chemicals and are suffering from various health problems;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ; and

(c) what protective measures have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir,

(b) The Green Peace conducted an environmental survey within and surrounding the former Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) factory. The survey showed contamination of land and groundwater with toxic wastes.

(c) According to the information given by the State Government of